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NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended

31st December, 1962.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

The Lindens,
Doddington,
March, Cambs.
Tel. Doddington 206.

MR.CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my report for the year 1962 on the health condition of your district during that period.

I also present the Public Health Inspector's report.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

(1) Public Health Committee.

This comprises the whole Council.

(2) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - CECIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Public Health Inspector - JOHN METCALFE, M.R.S.H.

(3) Nursing in the Home.

The entire district has the services of Trained Nurses under the control of the Local Authority.

(4) Hospital.

Most Patients are now treated at Doddington Hospital.

(5) Ambulance Facilities.

These are controlled by the County Council.

(6) Child Welfare.

Clinics are held at Doddington and Manea.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of adults engaged on agricultural work continues to decrease with the drift towards factory employment in nearby towns. Seasonal employment on farm work is still available for many members of the female adult population.

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GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	24,701
Population (estimated mid year by Registrar General) ...	4,650
Number of inhabited houses	1,619
Rateable Value	£37,277
Estimated net product of a penny rate	£139

The estimated population for mid year is below the figure for the Census return in 1961 which was 4,737.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

Number	78
Rate per 1000 population	16.77
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	5.12

Still Births.

Number	2
Rate per 1000 total live and still births. ...	25.00
Total Live and Still Births..	80
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	4

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births..	51.28
Legitimate " " " " legitimate live births	54.05
Illegitimate " " " " illegitimate " "	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)...	38.46
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	38.46
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	62.50

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths..	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births. ...	Nil

Deaths in Area and Causes:

	M.	F.	Total
Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant lymphatic neoplasms	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	2	5
Coronary disease angina	8	2	10
Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	2
Other heart disease	4	6	10
Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
Pnuemonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	4	-	4
Congenital malformations	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	6	9
Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
	37	24	61

. The death rate for the Rural District in 1962 was 13.11 per 1,000 population, compared with 13.08 for the previous year.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Total Notified.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Measles	4
Salmonella Enteritis	2
Pnuemonia	1
	8

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

There were two cases of food poisoning (Salmonella Enteritis) notified in the Rural District during 1962.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1962.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following are the numbers of visits and inspections carried out during 1962.

Water Supply	10.
Drainage	20.
Fried Fish Shops..	7.
Vans and sheds	27.
Factory Acts Inspections	49.
Bakehouses..	3.
Sanitary Accommodation..	30.
Refuse Dumps	13.
Rats and Mice (including premises visited by Rodent Operator)	71.
Manure and Refuse Accumulations	5.
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits.	5.
Nightsoil Disposal	3.
Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works	77.
Dykes.	16.
Buildings under Construction and Alteration	261.
New Drain and Sewer inspections including tests. ...	40.
Sewer Tests.	58.
Petroleum Installations.	3.
Poultry Farms and Piggeries...	11.
Infectious Disease	2.

INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES.

(1)	Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts and Housing Consolidated Regulations (excluding Council Houses)..	16.
(2)	Number of houses surveyed for Slum Clearance (Not included in (1)).	3.
(3)	Number of Inspections for the above purposes (1) and (2) (including re-inspections).	49.
(4)	Number of Dwellings inspected under Rent Act, 1957 ...	Nil
(5)	Inspections of Verminous or Dirty Dwellings	6.
(6)	Number of Inspections and Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants	57.
(7)	Number of Visits to Council Houses - Repairs, maintenance, and complaints, etc.	807.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Butchers' Shops...	17.
Grocers' Shops	21.
Ice Cream Premises (Retail)...	11.
Interviews and Meetings attended	875.

HOUSING.

The Council did not erect any new dwellings in 1962, and although private enterprise erected 11 dwellings, of which 6 were for housing farm employees, house building work slackened in the District to the extent of only 2 dwellings being under construction by the end of the year. One additional housing unit was provided by the division of a large farm house.

Summary of the post war development in the District:-

Rural District Council	214	dwellings
County Council Departments	6	"
Drainage Boards	4	"
Hospital Board	2	"
Private Enterprise	145	"
Private Enterprise (Conversions)	2	"
Total	373	"

Some further progress was made on Slum Clearance as can be seen from the following figures:-

Demolition Orders made	1
Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders or voluntarily by owners.	15
Closing Orders Revoked or Undertakings rescinded after houses made fit	1
Houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied (1) after informal action by District Council. ...	9
(2) after formal notice by District Council... ...	3
Total number of dwellings demolished or closed during the period from 1st January, 1955 to 31st December, 1962	107
Statutory Notices served for repairs under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936..	1

As in previous years, a considerable amount of time is taken up in dealing with repairs and maintenance (including external repainting) of Council houses and 807 calls at such houses were made during the year for this purpose.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Three applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants were received during 1962, all of which were approved for a total grant of £738. 17. 6d. Seven schemes were completed and grants were paid during 1962 to a total value of £1,451. 13. 3d.

During the same period 12 applications were received and approved by the Council for Standard Grants under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. The total value of the grants approved amounted to £1,635. 10. 0d. Ten of these schemes, plus four earlier schemes were completed during the year and grants paid totalling £1,515. 8. 3d.

The amenities provided under Standard Grant schemes completed in 1962 were as follows:-

Baths	13
Wash Basins	13
Hot Water Systems	14
Water Closets	13
Larders	4

57 inspections (including reinspections) were made at premises in respect of improvement schemes.

No application was received for Grant under Section 46 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, in connection with the erection of new dwellings by private enterprise.

BUILDING BYELAWS.

77 plans were deposited with the Council under their Building Byelaws, all of which were approved with the exception of one. 261 inspections were made of premises in course of erection or alteration, etc. under the Byelaws. 47 inspections were made of new drains under construction, including smoke testing drains at 40 premises. The Building Byelaws operating in the Council's area are similar to the Model issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and came into operation on the 7th November, 1953.

WATER SUPPLY.

The statutory Water Authority for the area is the Wisbech & District Water Board. 10 dwellings on the outskirts of the Rural District are served by Water Undertakings from other areas.

The following information is supplied at the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government:-

(i) Once again it is gratifying to report that there has been a plentiful supply of water throughout the area served by Board's mains and there have been no complaints as to quality of the water supplied by the Board.

(ii) Normally routine independent sampling of piped water supplies is not carried out by the Council, as the Water Board's Chemist carried out frequent bacteriological examinations of the mains water at selected sampling points.

(iii) No action by the Council was necessary in respect of contamination.

(iv) The local supply of water is not plumbo-solvent.

(v) Proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public mains:-

Parish	No.of Occupied Houses.	No with mains water.	No Without mains water.	Percentage Connected.
Benwick	227	226	1	99.55
Doddington	453	441	12	97.13
Manea (including Welches Dam).	480	474	6	98.75
Wimblington (including Stonea).	459	449	10	97.82
Totals	1619	1590	29	98.20

Most of the few houses without mains water are situated remote from the nearest main and it is not economically possible to take the water to them.

For the following schedule of work carried out in North Witchford Rural District during 1962, and Water Analyses, I am indebted to Mr.Cyril Llanwarne, B.Sc.Tech., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, and Mr.J.S.Collins, Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wisbech amd District Water Board:-

New Mains Laid.

Manea Fifties 993 yds. 3" A.C.
(For purposes of linking up two existing mains to the Colony).

New Connections.

Benwick	2
Doddington	6
Manea	2

Water Analyses 1962 - North Witchford Rural District.

In order to maintain a pure and wholesome supply to the district, frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1962, on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this and adjoining areas. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

Bacteriological Samples taken in the North Witchford Rural District and Adjoining Areas.

Place of Sampling	Total Tests Taken	No.of Tests Negative	No.of Tests Positive	% Negative Tests
March	88	88	-	100%
Doddington	51	51	-	100%
Chatteris	103	103	-	100%
Manea	46	46	-	100%
Totals	288	288	-	100%

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

Most of the houses in the oldest built-up area of Doddington, Wimblington and Manea are served by old combined storm and foul sewers, which discharge into obsolete works or catchpits, and thence to dykes.

The post-war housing estates at Wimblington and Manea have been equipped with modern sewage disposal plants, whilst the new housing estate at Doddington has a septic tank outfall connected with the filter beds forming part of the old sewage disposal works in the village.

The majority of houses which are situated in the unsewered areas of the District are provided with cesspool or septic tank drainage, and the Council operates an emptying service through a Contractor, one free emptying per annum being allowed. There is still a considerable number of houses equipped with pail closets at Benwick and Manea.

Further progress was made on the Benwick Sewerage Scheme and by the end of the year the bulk of the work had been completed. 926 yards of 6" glazed stoneware flexible jointed sewer pipes were laid in 1962, making a total of 2,557 yards since the scheme commenced. 52 yards of 5" diameter asbestos cement rising main were laid in 1962, making a total of 537 yards of 5" pumping main to the Sewage Disposal Works. In addition 352 yards of 4" diameter

asbestos cement rising main were laid from the pumping station in the southern portion of the village.

Two ejector stations with deep pumping wells were constructed and the installation of the pumping equipment was nearing completion at the end of the year. The major portion of the Sewage Disposal Works had been constructed by late December, when adverse weather conditions began to hinder the work, so that completion within the estimated period of 18 months was not acheived.

Lateral connections to the new sewers in the built up areas of the village were made and the house connections laid up to the front boundaries of all properties in readiness for picking up the private drains when the new sewerage scheme comes into operation.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Nightsoil, which is collected by contractors, is composted with straw for use as manure on arable land. The contracts provide for three collections of closet pails per fortnight the number of closets being dealt with at the end of the year was 301. The number of pail closets converted to water closets in 1962 was 26, in fact twice as many as in the previous year.

Closet Conversions 1962.

Village	Improvement Grant Schemes.	Others	Total.
Benwick	3	-	3
Doddington	2	3	5
Manea	4	7	11
Wimblington (with Stonea)	3	4	7
	12	14	26

The following table shows the progress of closet conversions during the past seven years:-

Year.	Grant Schemes	Others	Total.
1956	9	25	34
1957	5	21	26
1958	6	44	50
1959	6	14	20
1960	23	21	44
1961	9	4	13
1962	12	14	26
	70	143	213

Cesspools and vaults are emptied upon request from occupiers by one of the Contractors, who uses two cesspool emptiers for this purpose. The contents are either discharged over arable land or disposed at the nightsoil tipping points.

Tins and indestructible household refuse are collected in built-up areas at monthly intervals by contract, employing the kerbside method. Disposal is effected in disused gravel pits, where the refuse is periodically covered with soil.

MILK SUPPLY.

The whole of the Council's district is within a "designated area" for the supply of milk, which in the main is distributed by two firms operating from dairies outside the Council's area.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

There are now no licensed slaughterhouses in the Rural District, the seven butchers who have shops in the Area have the animals they purchase slaughtered in the neighbouring Urban Districts of March and Chatteris.

FOOD PREMISES.

(i). The number of food premises in the area is as follows:-

Grocer and general provision stores	20
Confectioners only	3
Butchers	7
Bakers	4
Fried Fish Shops..	6
Cafes	2

(ii). 21 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice cream. No ice cream is manufactured in the area and all the retailers sell prepacked ice cream, which in every case is stored in proper refrigerator cabinets. There are no Dairies in the District.

(iii). 11 inspections of registered food premises were made during the year.

(iv). No new educational activity was undertaken during the year.

(v). Condemned tinstuffs are normally disposed of by burial at the refuse dumps. Rejected meat is either removed for disposal by burial or in the case of whole carcases coloured with appropriate dye prior to removal by Knacker man.

(vi). No examination of whole consignments of food was necessary.

(vii). There are no ice cream manufacturers in the area.

(viii). An abstract of the provisions of the new Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/1956 has been distributed to all food premises in the district. 37 visits were made to food premises during the year. Byelaws for handling food were adopted by the Council in 1951 under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are no large caravan sites in the area. Two site licences were issued during 1962 under Sections 3 and 5 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, authorising the use of caravans for a period of 3 years and 1 year respectively. Ten site licences have been issued under the new Act, but at the end of 1962 there remained only 4 licensed caravan sites under occupation.

RODENT CONTROL.

Only a few complaints have been received regarding rats and mice and in the main the rodent destruction work carried out by the Council's workman has been confined to various sewage dykes and refuse tips.

Due to calls of other multifarious duties it is not possible to devote much time to rodent control work, but all complaints are investigated and the opportunity to check for the presence of vermin is taken when premises are visited in connection with other matters. Good liaison is maintained with the local officials of the Pest Department of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	7	9	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	18	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	13	22	-	-
Total.....	42	49	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector. (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1).....	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)..	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)...	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage to floors (S.6).....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7). (a) Insufficient....	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).....	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	3	3	-	-	-

PART V111 OF THE ACT
Outwork
(Sections 110 and 111)

There are no outworkers in the district.

J.METCALFE,

Public Health Inspector.